

Report: No Trump-Russia conspiracy

But Mueller gives no ‘obstruction’ answer

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Special counsel Robert Mueller did not find evidence that President Donald Trump’s campaign “conspired or coordinated” with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election but reached no conclusion on whether Mr. Trump obstructed justice, Attorney General William Barr declared Sunday. That brought a hearty claim of vindication from Mr. Trump but set the stage for new rounds of political and legal fighting.

Mr. Trump cheered the outcome but also laid bare his resentment after two years of investigations that have shadowed his administration. “It’s a shame that our country has had to go through this. To be honest, it’s a shame that your



Cliff Owen/Associated Press

Special counsel Robert Mueller walks past the White House after attending services Sunday at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Washington.

Investigations, more division expected to follow findings

Post-Gazette wire services

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WASHINGTON — Next, more of the same, but with more entrenched division, a bitter cross-fire of allegations and then, finally, a reckoning in the form of the 2020 presidential election.

At least, that’s what historians and politicians who have studied past national scandals foresee in the wake of the long-awaited conclusion of special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

And, they say, the special counsel’s report is unlikely to crack congressional Republicans’ wall of support for President Donald Trump, dampen Democratic demands to hold Mr. Trump to account or shift public opinion.

Mr. Mueller’s conclusion — he did not find sufficient evidence to say that Mr. Trump committed a crime, but he also will not say that the president is exonerated — is expected to propel Washington into a period of prolonged and even more heightened partisan combat. The report, as summarized Sunday by Attorney General William Barr, is seen as containing fuel enough for both sides to cling to their version of the truth about the Trump campaign’s ties to Russia, and not nearly enough for either side to

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Diverse crowd hears call by Muslims for unity

By David Templeton
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

In an auditorium featuring women wearing hijabs, some men in turbans and others in kufis, still others with yarmulkes, and even a Pirates baseball cap and golf hat, the “rehumanizing” theme of the Muslim Call for Unity and Solidarity in the wake of the New Zealand attack on two mosques was clear.

Diversity beats separation. Love trounces fear and hatred. And, most of all, action is necessary to stamp out racism, discrimination, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and homophobia. The call included action against use-of-force laws allowing police to shoot and kill with impunity.

“So many things for so many reasons divide us, but you can see nothing but a person’s humanity when you are standing beside them,” said Alaa Mohamed, describing herself only as a Muslim who helped organize and hosted the two-hour event Sunday night at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum auditorium that drew about 500 people.

Speakers included Rabbi Hazzan Jeffrey Myers of Tree of Life/Or L’Simcha Congregation and other religious leaders, community activists, politicians, hip-hop artist Jasiri X, who leads anti-violence group IHood Media, and leaders of the Muslim Student Association at the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University.

The mosque shootings on March 15 in Christchurch, New Zealand, that left 50 dead were the event focus, but the Tree of Life slayings of 11 people and the Antwon Rose II shooting death provided undercurrent themes.

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Vigils held on Rankin court and at a Hill church; a march in McKeesport



Steve Mellon/Post-Gazette

Michelle Kenney, mother of Antwon Rose II, weeps during a vigil for her son Sunday at Hawkins Village in Rankin.

Antwon Rose II remembered

By Tim Grant
and Peter Smith
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

It was a sad and somber scene Sunday at the Hawkins Village housing complex in Rankin, where dozens of people gathered for a vigil to honor the life of Antwon Rose II on the same basketball court where he spent so much of his young life hanging out with his friends.

“I wish Antwon could see this,” said his mother, Michelle Kenney. “He played on this basketball

court all the time. This was his spot. Anybody who knew him that was looking for him, they knew to come to the court and call his name. It’s ironic that we end up back here.”

Her eyes were filled with sorrow as she looked out on all the people who had come to celebrate Antwon’s memory in the same spot where he had once laughed, played and dreamed of a better life.

More than 200 people stood in a circle on the basketball court as red, white and purple flowers were laid around a cluster of lit candles. They spoke in hushed tones. They

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held hands and prayed. They sang songs of hope, and recited a poem in unison that Antwon had written, at times their voices were drowned out by a helicopter circling above the crowd.

It was one of a series of vigils and protest marches that erupted

immediately after the Friday evening acquittal of Michael Rosfeld, a former East Pittsburgh police officer, in last June’s fatal shooting of Antwon, 17, and that continued through Sunday night.

Another group rallied in McKeesport, while still others took part in an evening prayer vigil at Warren United Methodist Church in the Hill District.

Protesters have denounced as unjustified the killing of the teenager, who was fleeing a felony traffic stop.

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Turnpike buys 7 flood-plagued properties near Southern Beltway construction

By Ed Blazina
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Bill Stewart wasn’t planning on moving out of the longtime family house he has called home for four decades until after he retires in about four years.

But after his house along Route

How to build a highway
The making of the Southern Beltway

980 just outside McDonald flooded more than a half-dozen times in 18 months as part of the construction of the new Southern Beltway toll road, he decided to accept the

Pennsylvania Turnpike’s offer to buy his property. In all, the turnpike has spent \$567,500 to buy seven properties in that area that were plagued by chronic flooding as part of highway construction the past two summers.

“It was hard,” Mr. Stewart said of his decision to move. “But my

property was pretty much worthless. This was just going to be a continuous thing.”

Flooding problems began in early 2017, about the time contractors began moving millions of cubic yards of dirt along Reissling Road, across Route 980 from Mr. Stewart’s house. The Washington

County Conservation District, working on behalf of the state Department of Environment Resources, determined that the flooding was caused by extremely heavy rain and erosion and sedimentation control efforts for the

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